



Los Angeles County **Sheriff's Department**

News Release

ANONYMOUS TIPSTER PROGRAM CALLED "CRIME STOPPERS" LAUNCHES IN LOS ANGELES

On Monday, December 14, 2009, Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Michael Antonovich and Zev Yaroslavsky, and over 25 participating police agencies joined together to launch a new, anonymous tipster program called "Crime Stoppers." This program was started in 1976 by a young detective in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who was frustrated by the number of unsolved cases in his jurisdiction. The detective decided to reach out to the public for help. The local community, media, and law enforcement joined together in partnership to create "Crime Stoppers." This nonprofit organization will help provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of known criminals within Los Angeles County by soliciting crime tips from the public.

Since its inception, tips given to "Crime Stoppers" has resulted in over 500,000 arrests, half a million crimes solved, and \$4 billion in drugs and drug money seized. "Crime Stoppers" provides law enforcement agencies with additional ways to investigate crimes while disseminating information across various agency borders. This allows cross-jurisdictional access and ability to work together to have a virtual free flow of information while maintaining the tipster's anonymity. This program does not cost the Los Angeles County taxpayers or local/state governments any money to operate. "Crime Stoppers" offers a bridge between the community, law enforcement, and the media. Sheriff Baca stated, "Over half a million crimes were solved because people are willing to pick up the phone, e-mail us or text us to inform us of something that is important about a criminal activity."

These confidential and anonymous tips can be reported by telephone, text messaging or e-mail. Anyone may contact "Crime Stoppers" by calling 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus the tip to 274637 or CRIMES, or visiting the Web site online at lacrimestoppers.org.

SHB-159A-09 X X X December 15, 2009